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our brethren in other institutions of learning, to all Ministers of the Gospel, and to Students who are preparing for that sacred calling, the privileges and opportunities afforded in the Hebrew Summer Schools.

2. *Resolved*, That we also commend to the thoughtful consideration of all lovers of sacred learning the rare opportunities afforded by the Hebrew Correspondence School, conducted by Dr. Harper and his associates, for the acquisition of an accurate and thorough knowledge of the Hebrew language.

3. *Resolved*, That, in view of Dr. Harper's plan to organize a permanent undenominational Institute for the thorough study of the sacred tongues and others closely allied thereto, we commend to the prayerful consideration of all Christians this very praiseworthy enterprise, and we hereby pledge ourselves to do all in our power to advance its interests.

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**Expedition to Babylonia.**—Miss C. L. Wolfe of New York has given renewed evidence of her public spirit in making a contribution sufficiently large to pay the expenses of a small archæological party who are to explore the valley of the lower Tigris-Euphrates. The party will consist of Dr. W. H. Ward, editor of *The Independent*, Mr. J. T. Clarke, one of the chief actors in the American excavations at Assos, and two other gentlemen. It is hoped that one of the others may be Dr. J. S. Sterrett, who was Mr. Clarke's colleague at Assos. Mr. Clarke is now in London and Dr. Sterrett is in Asia Minor. The party will probably leave London early in October. Passing by Constantinople most likely, it is expected that they will take the overland route from Alexandretta to Mosul on the Tigris. Just opposite Mosul lie the ruins of Nineveh. From this point they will proceed toward the south and make their headquarters at Bagdad, Bosra or some other point between these two cities. They will thus be in easy reach of Babylon, Ur of the Chaldees, Erech, Sippar and the ruins of numerous other cities of the ancient Babylonian empire. They desire to reach their destination about the middle or close of November. They will then have the three most favorable months of the year for their work. Excavation will not be a part of this work. The object of the party will be rather to examine sites and report places where they think excavation might be profitably carried on. The priority of English and French excavators will be duly recognized. American excavations will be confined to new territory. And the territory is broad enough for several nations to work harmoniously together. The Turkish government looks, it is true, with suspicion on all enterprises carried on within its domain by Western peoples, but we hope that we shall be permitted to excavate when we are ready to do so.

The increasing interest felt in this country in Semitic study and archæology, and particularly in Assyrian and Babylonian antiquities leads us to hope that the American expedition may be eminently successful, and may be the fore-runner of other expeditions such as shall enrich our American museums and enlarge our knowledge of some of the oldest records of our race.

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**Minute Accuracy of the Old Testament.**—The confirmation of Bible statements down to the minutest details by Egyptian papyri and Assyrian tablets is astonishing at the close of an age of rationalistic attacks on the sacred volume. To be sure Herodotus and Berosus have likewise risen in authority since these discoveries have been made, but where the Hebrew and the Greek traditions differ,

the hieroglyph and the cuneiform appear to favor the Jewish record. "My historical criticism," says Ebers, "is the more full of devotion as every day of study leads me into deeper reverence for those wonderful books." Rawlinson declared in 1877 that he had found no difficulty in accepting the literal sense of the Mosaic narratives from any evidence of the monuments.

We mention a few minor points in which the agreement is striking. Pharaoh gave to Abraham sheep but not horses. Contemporary monuments represent sheep, while horses do not appear until after the Hyksos invasion.

In the many details of the life of Joseph nothing occurs, says Ebers, "that would not agree exactly with court life of the Pharaohs in the time of their glory."—The Harris papyrus thus refers to the Exodus: "The population of Egypt had broken away over the borders, and among those who remained there was no commanding voice." The Bible says Hezekiah paid Sennacherib 30 talents of gold and 300 talents of silver which is the more strikingly confirmed by the apparent discrepancy of the Assyrian record, which contains 800 talents of silver. But as Schrader says, the agreement is exact, as three Palestinian silver talents were equal to eight Assyrian.

The length of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, 43 years, is confirmed by the clay tablets. His madness, when he ate grass as an ox, seems to be referred to by the record made after his recovery: "For four years I did not build high places; I did not lay up treasures; I did not sing the praises of Merodach; I did not offer sacrifice; I did not clear out the canals."

Belshazzar, the last king of Babylon, whose existence was long doubted, has been found as Bilshuruzur. Ahasuerus has been identified as Xerxes, and his presence at Susa in the third year of his reign and again in the seventh, when Esther was made queen, coincides with the date of his return from his invasion of Greece.

14 nations, 14 kings, 40 cities, and 10 idols named in Scripture occur in their proper place and time on the monuments. Such numerous and minute points of historical contact are now flung like a net over Scripture books and dates, and will hold them in their places in spite of all the herculean efforts of those who would displace or rearrange them.

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## ➤BOOK NOTICES.◀

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### LAGARDE'S SEPTUAGINT.\*

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It has long been known that Paul de Lagarde of Göttingen was at work upon the text of the Septuagint. At different times he has published contributions to the solution of this difficult problem.† Two years ago he announced the long ex-

\* *LIBRORUM VETERIS TESTAMENTI CANONICORUM*. Pars Prior, Graece. Pauli de Lagarde, edita. Gottingæ: A. Hoyer, 1883. XVI, 544 pp.

† It is worth while to give the list of these contributions here: *Veteris Testamenti ab Origene recensiti fragmenta apud Syros servata quinque* (1879), *Materialien zur Geschichte und Kritik des Pentateuchs* (1867), *Psalterium, Job, Proverbia arabice* (1876), *Der Pentateuch Koptisch* (1867), *Psalterii versio memphitica* (1875), *Anmerkung zur griechischen Uebersetzung der Proverbien* (1863), *Genesis graece* (1868), *Die Pariser Blaetter des Codex Samaritanus* (1879). Bearing more directly upon the Hebrew are *Hieronymi quaestiones hebraicae in libro Geneseos* (1868), *Prophetæ chaldaice* (1872), *Hagiographa chaldaice* (1874), and *Psalterium juxta Hebraeos Hieronymi* (1874).